

D-8680

Date August 23, 1938.

(Special Branch) Office Notes

Commissioner.
Sir,

Attached report and appendices show only too clearly that the so-called Press Censorship Bureau is nothing more nor less than a channel for the propagating of scurrilous matter against the S.M.C.. It is also apparent that the Bureau is working hand in glove with the Hongkew "yellow press".

The "Mainichi" with its usual stupidity was too bent on hitting at the S.M.C. to give any thought to the possibility that the Editor of the "China Daily News" might modify the draft supplied him by the Bureau.

John Robertson
D. C. (Special Branch)

FILE
1/2

S.C. Sp.B.

Please see me in
re. at your convenience.

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23/8. *Sey.*

CONFIDENTIAL

FM. 2
G. 55M-1-408

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

S. 5, Special Branch, Station,

REPORT

Date August 22, 1938.

Subject..... "The China Daily News"

Made by..... and Forwarded by..... D.S. McKeown

On August 22 Ho Kung-ying (胡躬行), publisher and editor of the "China Daily News" (中国日报), gave the following information to C.A. Loh Sih-kyas:-

"On August 19 I received a manuscript from a Japanese who is connected with the Shanghai Press Censorship Bureau with a request that it be published in my newspaper as an editorial. I did publish it in my paper on August 20 (translation attached marked "A") but all allegations and criticisms directed against the S.M.C. were deleted or altered by me. However, the Japanese had made a translation of the article before its publication in my paper. Thus, (translation marked "B") the Japanese text of the article/published by the "Mainichi" on August 21 is different from the one appearing in my paper. As the Japanese are dissatisfied with my action, I have decided to suspend the publication of my paper temporarily as from August 22 because if I were to act as directed by the Japanese, I believe that my paper will eventually be suppressed by the S.M.C. The Japanese, however, advised me not to be afraid and said that arrangements have already been made with four Chinese papers to criticize and denounce the S.M.C. at their direction."

Upon being asked the amount of the subsidy given to him monthly, Ho Kung-ying explained that he had not received any funds from the Japanese in question but he had an agreement drawn up between himself and the Japanese wherein the latter would pay \$300 a month as subscription for 500 copies per issue of his paper.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

.....Station,

Date19

- 2 -

Subject

Made by Forwarded by

It will be remembered that on July 1 the paper in question published an article entitled "The Maintenance of Peace : Ratepayers' Right to Question the Authorities" (translation attached marked "C"). The tone of the article had already been modified by Ho Kung-ying before publication.

Jm-Krown
D. S.

D. C. (Special Branch).

DBR.
25/8

China Daily News (中國日報) publishes the following editorial:-
20.8.38.

Maintenance of Peace in the Settlement

Under foreign protection the 3,000,000 Chinese residents in the Foreign Settlements of Shanghai have been able to conduct their business in peace. It is not surprising therefore that people in the interior are flocking into the Foreign Settlements of Shanghai.

Here we wish to express our admiration for the authorities of the Foreign Settlements for their untiring efforts in the maintenance of peace and order.

While living in this haven, certain elements have been committing unlawful acts. This is a challenge to the authorities. Such people are public enemies. In the past assassinations have taken place but they were solved by the authorities. The investigations revealed that they had been committed by individuals either out of private grudge or through public indignation.

Now in broad daylight and on a busy street, an attack has been made by five armed desperadoes on a Police officer of the rank of Superintendent whose duty was to preserve peace and order in the Settlement.

On the eve of the first anniversary of August 13, it was generally feared that peace and order in the Settlement might be impaired. The day, however, passed off without any untoward incidents and for this we are thankful to the Settlement authorities for the adequate precautionary measures adopted in advance. Naturally, the late Superintendent Loh Lin-kwe was one of the officers charged with enforcing these precautionary measures. Nevertheless, Superintendent Loh was murdered five days after the anniversary. Although it remains to be ascertained whether the motive of his murder is due to private grudge or jealousy of his official position, we cannot help entertaining a fear for the future peace and order of the Settlement. It is earnestly hoped that the Settlement authorities will take more steps to preserve peace and order in the district where 3,000,000 Chinese residents are taking shelter.

August 21, 1938.

MAINichi

THE MURDER OF LOH LIEN-KWE: OFFENSIVE ATTITUDE OF S.M.C.
EXPOSED: CHINA DAILY NEWS ADVISES S.M.C. TO REFLECT

While the S.M.P. authorities are boasting of the effectiveness of the precautionary measures adopted on August 13 to prevent acts of terrorism, Superintendent Loh Lien-kwe of the S.M.P. was assassinated by terrorists and the residents of Shanghai were thrown into a state of panic.

The "China Daily News," a Chinese newspaper, published the following leading article under the headline "The question of peace and order of the Settlement" drawing the attention of the S.M.C. to this matter. This article is noteworthy for both this paper and the "North China Daily News" have published leading articles on the question of peace and order in the Settlement.

The "China Daily News" wrote:- "While the hostilities are affecting various places along China's coasts, the Foreign Settlements in Shanghai, due to their special status, are enjoying peace and order in a comparative degree. Since the outbreak of the hostilities, a large number of Chinese people have flocked into the Foreign Settlements for they rely upon the special status of the Settlements and the efficiency of the authorities to preserve peace and order. On several occasions this paper has drawn the attention of the Foreign Settlement authorities to the preservation of peace and to their responsibility in the matter because acts of terrorism have frequently taken place. Whether or not it was due to the articles of this paper, August 13 passed off quietly because the authorities had adopted adequate measures. For this, the residents are thankful to the Settlement authorities. Nevertheless,

Superintendent Loh Lien-kwe was murdered five days after the anniversary. Although we are not concerned whether the motive of the murder is private grudge or public indignation, we wish to emphasize that this act of terrorism took place in broad daylight in the business centre. Loh Lien-kwe was one of the responsible officers dealing with terrorists. We would like to know what the S.M.C. authorities are doing. We cannot help entertaining a doubt about the efficiency of the S.M.C. to maintain peace and order. As regards the weakness of the Police Force we have already drawn the attention of the public to this on several occasions. In spite of this, we have witnessed this act of terrorism. It is most regrettable. What about the prestige of the S.M.P.? We again request careful reflection on the part of the authorities.*

China Daily News (中国日报), a mosquito daily, published the following editorial on July 1, 1938.

THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE: RATEPAYERS' RIGHT TO QUESTION THE AUTHORITIES

Probably every resident in Shanghai has the feeling that this isolated island is now like a hell on earth. Large captions appear in newspapers every day reporting that a certain traitor or anti-Japanese element has been killed or beheaded. One paper even stated that several assassinations had taken place within 48 hours. This frightful situation has prevailed since the beginning of 1938, so much so that almost every citizen is becoming anxious about his personal safety. This is most unfortunate and constitutes a serious problem for the authorities of the two Foreign Settlements.

The Foreign Settlements of Shanghai are densely populated by people of all nationalities. All kinds of evils are to be found. This has become more apparent since the withdrawal of the Chinese forces from Shanghai. In the community of Shanghai, persons are contending against other persons, struggles are going on between one party and another and one nation is acting against another nation. Thus there is always a possibility of an unfortunate incident arising at any time. However, safety and peace and order must be maintained. The occurrence of a case of assassination will destroy peace and order.

Shanghai has a complicated community and when a case of assassination occurs, the victimized party will take reprisals and thus a vicious circle is created. In this way, thousands of assassinations may occur and the reign of terror may go on for a long time. It is thus that human beings in this Twentieth Century are killing one another like beasts. What a sad reflection!

These murders, whether carried out for private grudge or public vengeance, were not committed without reason. In Shanghai, wherein conditions are so complicated, it is very easy for one to make enemies.

However, it is the responsibility of the authorities to maintain peace and order and to prevent such crimes before they are perpetrated and to punish the assassins after they are perpetrated. Since the beginning of this year, many such acts of terrorism have taken place in Shanghai. The authorities have not only been powerless to put a stop to them before they are carried out, but they have arrested only a few of the offenders. This, in the eyes of peaceful residents, who are eagerly longing for peace in the Foreign Settlements, is indeed a matter for profound regret.

Shanghai is an international metropolis, known for its advanced state of civilization and progress. Yet it has now become a hell because of the many cases of assassinations that have taken place even in broad daylight. If the situation is allowed to continue, the 3,000,000 citizens of Shanghai will become unhappy. The authorities are directly or indirectly collecting taxes and municipal rates from the 3,000,000 citizens, therefore they are under an obligation to preserve peace and good order in the Foreign Settlements.

For this reason, to demand and urge the authorities of the Foreign Settlements to maintain peace and good order is the right of every citizen of Shanghai. Right and obligation are equal terms; if our obligation is not fulfilled, it means that we have lost our right. Thus, we have to urge upon the authorities of the Foreign Settlements to pay close attention to the present state of affairs in the Foreign Settlements.

Confidential

Date July 5, 1938.

(Special Branch) Office Notes

Commissioner.

Sir,

I learn from the Editor of the China Daily News that this article emanated from Japanese sources (Kato's office). He realizes now that it was given him to permit the Japanese press to point to it as Chinese opinion - Nippo refers to it as "Mocking at police measures".

The Editor suggested writing a leader correcting inaccuracies in the article, but I told him to leave well alone and confine himself in future to comment fair to men who have to face fire of armed criminals night daily.

John Robertson

D. C. (Special Branch)



July 2, 1938.

Morning Translation.

China Daily News (中國日報), a mosquito daily, published the following editorial on July 1, 1938 :-

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CHINESE NEWSPAPER HOLDS SETTLEMENT AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE
FOR ASSASSINATIONS

Mocking at the Police measures, terrorists have thrown the 3,500,000 people of Shanghai into a state of panic. The desire for peace and order has become stronger and stronger.

On July 1st, the "China Daily News" took up the matter and declared that assassinations were taking place in broad daylight and questioned the responsibility of the Settlement authorities for these crimes and requested them to put a check to such crimes and to punish the offenders. The paper further claimed the right of citizens to urge the authorities to maintain peace and order.